

In Memory of Judy Skarsten (1947 - 2019)

Crescentia DeGoede
February 16, 2019



Name: Judy Skarsten

Children: Theoni

Birth Date: October 15, 1947

Ascension Date: January 3, 2019

Judy Ann Skarsten (Scott) was born near Dallas, Texas in 1942. Her young parents soon moved to California, when she was about three years old. From a young age, Judy took on a lot of responsibility taking care of her younger sisters, Jackie and Janie while her mother was working.

Judy attended Oakland Technical High School, where she was very popular and active in the student government. She was a style and fashion trendsetter. She taught swimming, was a lifeguard and worked as a camp counselor. One of Judy's life-long passions was to read. Already during her high school years, she was a spiritual seeker and visited various churches with her friends.

After graduating high school, she moved to back to Texas to develop a relationship with her grandmother, who lived on a ranch near Midland Texas. Judy returned to the Bay Area to study nursing at San Jose State University. After working in a hospital ER, she was unsatisfied with nursing and changed her career. She obtained a Master's in Art Therapy from San Francisco University.

At 25 years old, Judy became the mother of a beautiful baby girl, Robin. They lived in Berkeley, where Judy was surrounded by a large group of close friends. She often held her own workshops for adults and children on spiritual growth, and art therapy.

Judy joined the church in the spring of 1974 in Oakland, California. One of her friends had invited her to accompany him to an evening program, and there she met the Oakland family. She was intrigued by the community and came up to Booneville to become more entrenched in this exciting and spiritual life. She shared with friends that she had a vision of Jesus and felt that this is what she had to do with her life.

Judy was so energetic and beautiful, and she brought many of her friends from the local area to the church. She worked closely with Matthew Morrison and Sheri Reuter to help run the "Actionizer" program, for new members after a 21-day workshop. They witnessed in Santa Rosa, California, and brought many people to the workshops in Booneville.

Judy has many wonderful spiritual children from that time. We all remember her tremendous smile and infectiously delightful laugh, which was completely disarming to all. She was an inspiration to so many members and guests. Judy had a way about her in which she could completely listen to them so that they felt really known and fully understood. Judy was able to make people feel so at home, and she truly felt God's heart for each person, and they experienced that unconditional love through her in turn. She was able to make them feel not only loved, but that someone with great wisdom was looking out for them, and she engendered trust which was very beautiful in our community.

Around 1980-1981, Judy was diagnosed with a serious, usually terminal, cancer. She prayed to God for guidance. She was contacted by a friend who shared with her about an herbal cancer treatment therapy in Europe. Feeling this was a sign from God, she went to France where she underwent a fast and herbal treatment for her cancer. Miraculously, she was fully healed!

In 1982, she received the Marriage Blessing with one of her spiritual children, Jahan Shahi, and they both attended the Unification Theological Seminary (1983-85). After the seminary, from 1986-87, she joined Jahan in the Washington D.C. area. She assisted Jahan with projects like the Mideast Times and holding seminars and workshops for leaders from nations in the Middle East to help bring peace to the Middle East.

In 1993, Judy and Jahan were given the gift of a child from an offering family. Judy loved her daughter Theoni with a passion that remained steadfast. From the day Theoni came into the world, Judy's life revolved around her.

In the mid-90s, Judy began working in a preschool at New Hope Academy in Landover Hills, Maryland. She taught first grade in the 1996-1997 academic year and later taught English at high school level at New Hope Academy. After obtaining an additional degree as a Montessori Specialist, Judy also taught at the Henson Valley Montessori school and in public schools in Prince George's County, MD.

In 2005, she moved with Theoni to Seattle to be close to her dear friend Lucy Wells, and to work with Matthew Morrison again in an international non-profit organization, holding conferences and seminars throughout the Pacific Northwest. She was the conference coordinator and managed large conferences with legislators and civic leaders and was an inspiration to many. During the 2008 financial crisis, the company lost funding and Judy was called to another purpose.

In 2009, Judy moved back to Maryland and stepped back into her first love—teaching children. Judy rejoined the faculty at New Hope Academy, as a third-grade teacher, as well as being a private tutor. In 2012, after a workplace accident, Judy developed a medical condition in her brain that greatly impacted her balance. She fought to get a medical procedure that would likely have helped her. Other than her balance problems, and related issues, Judy was healthy and looked forward to living a full and long life. She was always a joy to be around, brimming with fun and life.

On January 3, 2019, Judy had a pleasant dinner with her roommate. After dinner, around 10:00-11:00 PM she started going upstairs in her Greenbelt, Maryland, home and tragically fell. Her roommate rushed to her side and called emergency services.

Judy—you are missed every day by your family and many friends. We find comfort in knowing that you have gone to your heavenly home.

Judy's final farewell and life celebration Seonghwa Memorial will be held on March 2, 2019, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM at New Hope Family Church, 4801 Tesla Dr., Suite M, Bowie, Maryland, 20715. A reception will be held following the service at New Hope Academy, 7009 Varnum St., Landover Hills, Maryland, 20784.

You can contribute to Judy's Seonghwa fund at her [GoFundMe](#) page.

Seonghwa Ceremony

Time: 10:00 AM

Date: March 2, 2019

Location: New Hope Family Church: 4801 Tesla Dr., Suite M, Bowie, Maryland, 20715